

N E W S R E L E A S E

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Hundreds of thousands of Californians face loss of federal unemployment extension benefits at the end of the year

Impacted individuals are advised on additional resources

SACRAMENTO – The California Employment Development Department (EDD) has notified more than 222,000 long-term unemployed individuals with extension claims in California that they will lose their federally funded extended unemployment benefits in two weeks unless Congress and the President agree to renew the extensions. The budget currently being considered in Congress does not include an extension of federal unemployment benefits, which are scheduled to end on December 28.

“Though the decision to renew the unemployment benefit extensions is in the hands of Congress and the President, the EDD is warning our customers that, if no further action is taken in Washington D.C., their federal extension benefits will end on December 28,” said Sharon Hilliard, EDD’s Chief Deputy Director.

“We want to give those affected time to prepare as best they can for the possible cutoff of this vital source of income,” Hilliard said. “EDD is also providing information about many federal, state and local forms of assistance that may help ease their financial burdens.”

The EDD sent out notices advising affected claimants that the week ending December 28, 2013, will be the last week any federal extension benefits can be paid, even if someone is still unemployed and/or has a remaining balance on their extension. That means unless Congress acts there will be no phase-out of these benefits – all federal extension payments will come to an end at the same time. Approximately one-third of the more than 712,000 people currently certifying for unemployment benefits in California are long-term unemployed who receive federal extensions.

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The EDD is urging its customers to check the department's website, edd.ca.gov, and social media sites ([Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)) for the most up-to-date information on a possible renewal of the benefit extensions. EDD updates its website and social media sites with the latest information on a continual basis.

Last week, Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. urged Congress to approve an extension of federal benefits [in a letter to Congressional leaders](#).

Extension Impact in California

Long-term unemployed persons in California have received \$44.85 billion from four tiers of benefit extensions enacted in response to the recession and from the separate FED-ED extension. The FED-ED benefit ended in May 2012. At the peak of recession-triggered job losses, the federal government provided up to 73 weeks of extended benefits, in addition to the regular 26 weeks of state benefits.

Late last year, the fate of the extensions was in doubt until Congress reached a last-minute agreement on renewing the four-tiers of federal extension benefits until the end of 2013. That legislation eventually reduced the maximum federal extension benefits currently available here in California to 37 weeks and extended the benefits only until the end of this year.

The EDD has sent letters to claimants who are currently certifying for federal extension benefits advising them of the scheduled upcoming cutoff of these extension payments and referring them to agencies that provide a wide variety of assistance, including:

- **AMERICA'S JOB CENTERS OF CALIFORNIA (AJCC)**

EDD and a variety of state and local agencies provide a broad range of employment and training services – including résumé and job search assistance – in local AJCC offices throughout the state. Many offices also offer “Experience Unlimited” networking and training groups, which have helped many unemployed individuals find their next job opportunity. More information is available on EDD's website (www.edd.ca.gov) and [YouTube channel](#). To find the nearest Job Center, visit www.americasjobcenter.ca.gov or call 1-877-US2-JOBS (available 24 hours per day, 7 days a week).

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- **WE CONNECT**

WE Connect is a national program that connects families to valuable programs and services that can help them get ahead. Several of these programs, such as the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), are available and accessible to families. Online at www.weconnect.net.

- **KEEP YOUR HOME CALIFORNIA**

Keep Your Home California is a federally funded foreclosure prevention program that offers assistance to distressed homeowners. Up to \$3,000 in free monthly mortgage help is available for qualified unemployed homeowners for as long as twelve months. Information is available online at www.KeepYourHomeCalifornia.org. Homeowners can call 1-888-982-KEEP (5337) to apply. Homeowners must have received unemployment benefits within 30 days of requesting mortgage assistance. If someone is interested in this program, it is important to apply immediately.

- **CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES (CDSS)**

The CDSS administers or oversees programs that help nearly 3 million California residents – cash aid and employment services for families through the California Work Opportunities and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) program; food assistance through the CalFresh Program; child care, residential or in-home care; and services or assistance for disabled individuals. Go online to www.benefitscal.org for more information on these programs and other local resources throughout California. Local resources can also be found under the county government listings section of your local phone book.

- **211 DIRECTORY – CONNECT WITH YOUR COUNTY**

This easy to remember phone number connects people with important community services in most counties. Spearheaded by United Way, 2-1-1 provides a free and confidential way to connect with nearby community services. Online at www.211us.org, or dial 2-1-1 by telephone.

Further information on these and other assistance services for unemployed individuals can be found on the "Additional Resources" page on EDD's website at www.edd.ca.gov/About_EDD/Additional_Resources.htm.

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